CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION



MINUTES — April 27, 2005 **Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Gary Smith, Sue Chenault, Glenn Eades, Peter McDonald

ABSENT: Julie Barnfather, Ken Bechmann; youth advocate Morgan Hargraves

<u>CITY STAFF</u>: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording

Secretary

AUDIENCE: Mike Wallace

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

AGENDA

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

Note: Eades offered to write and email the task list for RTC for this meeting.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion for approval of March 30, 2005 RTC minutes as submitted by:

Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Chenault Motion carried: Unanimous 4-0

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE III.

None

IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS

None

V. <u>DISCUSSION AND REPORTS</u>

A. Trail at Bear Creek Park

Cox introduced Mike Wallace, Manager of the Reed-Middleton consulting team. The team is preparing plans and undergoing the permit processing to construct the Bear Creek trail. Comprising the trail's budget is \$467,000 from the TEA-21 grant and \$180,000 from the IAC grant.

Using a 30% design drawing (handout), Wallace described the project as follows:

- The trail goes behind Safeway from Redmond Way connecting to the existing trail under Union Hill Road. A crosswalk from there connects to Town Center to Sammamish River Trail.
- Three trails are within the stream buffer and right-of-way, spaced and aligned through trees: 12-foot paved, 2-foot shoulder on west, and 4-foot soft shoulder (3/8" crushed) on east side of trail.
- Project is within the floodway.
- Cannot bring in fill without modeling and mitigation, which is expensive and time consuming; therefore, will install a cut-through with a 2-foot wall. Trail will be kept up high/dry from the creek, removing the portion of the concrete walk (avoiding fill in the floodway).
- Provide 18-inch fill material below pavement section so if creek rises, trail would still be usable.
- Deferring the soft surface trail until after the project is completed.
- Possibly remove blackberries, replacing with seed and trees, depending on mitigation requirements.
- Moving forward with permitting process.
- No wetlands on the site.
- Right-of-way is State and City-owned; consultant is currently working with WSDOT to develop funding.
- Looking at refining the cost estimate.
- Trail becomes a sidewalk along Avondale, six feet from the traffic lane, and includes some trees.

Cox explained the soft surface trail is a budget issue and will be added in the future.

- The project is associated with matching funds from federal sources, which would pay for ASHTO standard hard surface trail, but not a soft surface trail.
- The hard surface is being augmented with a four-foot soft shoulder to serve in the interim.
- The soft surface trail is being designed in this project so that after completion and fulfillment of federal obligations of funding, the City can construct the soft surface trail.

An opportunity exists for a creek interpretive area and linkages from the shopping area.

Rod Crittenden is the City's construction manager assigned to the project. Construction proposed for fall of 2005, pending permit issuance.

B. Williams Pipeline (Watershed)

Commissioners asked staff whether or not the main north/south Watershed trail would be closed during construction, and if so, would alternate routes be provided. Cox responded:

- The City is continuing to work with Williams Northwest Pipelines on the Watershed pipeline project.
- There will be three to four staging areas within the Preserve, and sections will be closed.
- Staff is attempting to ascertain alternative routes. Next month should provide more clarification.

Chenault asked if it would be possible to temporarily open hiking trails as a detour with the use of signage on the eastside to bikes and other users in order to preserve the Trillium trail as equestrian.

Cox explained the City was not involved in public meetings surrounding the project.

- Williams is within the existing right-of-way.
- Environmental Impact statement has been done.
- Negotiating with cities and counties to see what local conditions might be.
- The City has the right to require conditions, specifically dealing with the right-of-way on City land.
- If trails are going to be closed, people should be informed in a more public way.

Commissioners did not advocate a public meeting, but, rather, informing the public via advertising, e.g., City website, RCTV, *Redmond Reporter*, *Eastside Journal*, and especially signs.

Commissioners concurred that staff should follow up with Greg Byszeski, Park Operations Manager, regarding detours, signs, and staging areas. Cox will investigate this with Park Operations staff, specifically regarding staging areas and alternative routes, and report back next month.

C. Neighborhood Reviews

1. Willows/Rose Hill Neighborhood

Commissioners discussed viability of a trail in the north/south PSE right-of-way. Cox reported the following:

- County plans do not show an extension of trail north of 124th (unincorporated King County); therefore, it terminates at the collector trail adjacent to 124th.
- Roadway improvements have been finalized; King County is not interested in including a trail.
- The City's 124th collector trail is not on the King County map.
- A segment is doable between the PSE east/west transmission lines to Willows Creek Neighborhood Park; however, south of Redmond Way it would run into residential resistance. It could work if/when houses come up to buy (potentially could take generations).
- Bellevue (further south of Redmond Way) has not yet responded to initiated communication; but they could possibly have right-of-way to 520.
- School district has been very unreceptive to trail construction through their property; the City hopes that could change in the future.

Commissioner discussion:

- Look at underlying needs, since trail is not viable. Need to re-think, look at segments or other alternatives. (Eades)
- 100th Street, west of Willows, could be a potential E-W linkage. 100th is Kirkland's link west to 405. (Smith)
- Consider building trail behind the industrial properties at top of hill. (Eades)
- Remove mapped trails that cannot be done, and move on with trails that can. (Chenault)

 Still have a vision with the north/south PSE trail, for example, acquiring a piece here and there. (McDonald)

Cox reiterated there could be a linkage trail south through Bellevue. He will get information from Bellevue and bring further information regarding this connection and discussion in terms of segments. Also, the PRO Plan update is in two years, at which time staff will take another look at the area strategically.

2. Grass Lawn Neighborhood

Discussion:

- An article in *FOCUS* magazine on the Grass Lawn neighborhood plan stated a desire for a trail system. (Eades)
- Bridle Crest Trail is closest to Grass Lawn. (Cox)
- Through neighborhood analysis, the City is collecting information on neighborhood strengths, weaknesses, wants, and strategies. When the City updates the PIP and PRO Plan, they may add/subtract projects as a result. (Cox)
- Linkages from neighborhoods to Grass Lawn and Bridle Crest are what feed Grass Lawn trail access needs. (Cox)
- Signage would help identify a cut-through trail from Grass Lawn off Old Redmond Road (southwest corner) to the Bridle Crest trail. (McDonald) McDonald will email Commissioners these directions from Grass Lawn to the Bridle Crest trail connection.

D. Other Trail Project Reports

1. Evans Creek Trail Phase I, Stage 2

Cox thanked McDonald for voicing RTC support to City Council regarding the reallocation of funds for the Stage 2 process of the Evans Creek Trail Phase I. City Council approved the re-allocation, and funding is now sufficient to complete the link from 95th to Union Hill Road. Construction will begin within two weeks.

2. Bear Creek Trail – Missing Link

Cox reported additional monies are needed to fund the part of the Bear Creek trail that is adjacent to Avondale Way between Union Hill Road and Avondale Road. Linda Gorremans, Parks Planning, has completed and submitted a Conservation Futures matching grant application. The City already has IAC grant funding

(\$180,000 toward purchase of two parcels to complete the linkage); however, a second grant is needed to move forward.

E. Joint Bike/Ped Meeting

Smith reported that although the PBAC (Pedestrian-Bicycle Advisory Committee) was interested in extending the east/west PSE trail connection further west from Willows, their current status/interest was uncertain. Public Works has not responded as to whether the \$80,000 allocated to the study was funded. Discussion:

- PBAC has been focused on the TMP over the last several months.
- Commissioners questioned why no action has transpired as a result of the joint meeting last year regarding the PSE Trail extension.
- Commissioners advocate this connection.
- A consultant most likely would be needed at this point to determine specifics.

Cox noted if hiring a consultant for the connection was a high priority by RTC, then the City should fund the study (next fall staff would review the budget).

Concurrence: RTC does not want another joint meeting until last year's question can be addressed/coordinated, e.g., is Public Works' funding still available. *Eades will inquire of PBAC.*

F. 10 Neighborhood Connections Per Year (City Council Request)

Part of City Council's "visioning lens" is identifying community strategy, i.e., requesting ten neighborhood connecting trails per year. Cox explained these connections are not large CIP projects; they might more likely reference hiking and equestrian-type trails, such as:

- 1. Connecting 116th with Farrel-McWhirter and neighborhoods south, i.e., Juel Park trail south to Farrel-McWhirter
- 2. 116th Street collector trail: e.g., along subdivisions of Anderson, Fischer, Whistler, Sunny Farms, etc.
- 3. Avondale Road collector trail linking Avondale Road (sidewalk on west side of Avondale Road)
- 4. PSE bridge
- 5. Bridle Crest Trail signalized crossing across West Lake Sammamish
- 6. Redmond Way Trail
- 7. East Lake Sammamish Trail (interim) segment
- 8. Southeast Redmond Trail

- 9. 65th Street extension trail (associated with LWTC and Marymoor entrance)
- 10. Evans Trail (Union Hill to 95th)
- 11. Bear Creek Trail (crosswalk to)

These are trails and do not include bike-ped paths such as 95th Street from Avondale to Evans Creek Trail that get bicyclists and pedestrians off pavement and onto shoulder.

Commissioners will complete a list of connections with which to advise Council.

G. Trail Commissioner Position

- No response to the advertisements as yet for the vacant Commissioner position.
- Linda Gorremans is writing an article, which should be out in the next two weeks, will feature the Evans Trail and the role the Trails Commission has played. The article will also announce the position vacancy.
- There will also be an advertising flyer posted at the National Trails Day event.
- If there was no response from Gorremans' article, staff would consider alternative advertising such as REI, Alpine Hut, and Farm Depot.

H. National Trails Day - June 4

Smith referenced the handout itemizing the National Trails Day and ribbon cutting event:

- Event date is June 4 at the Evans Creek Trail from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Set up will be by the trail at Perrigo Community Park.
- McDonald and Eades will be at the event for the three hours;
 Chenault may not be available, but will confirm with Smith.
- Handouts will include the following maps: the new Sammamish Valley Trails, the 11x17 Proposed and Existing Trails, the Watershed Preserve, and Farrel-McWhirter.

Cox noted that Stage 2 of the trail would only be a month into construction and not yet completed.

I. Park Bond Update

Cox reported:

Redmond Trails Commission April 27, 2005 Page 8

- Good professional advice has been received from consultant.
- Consultant has 82% success rate in getting bonds passed.
- Margin for error is small (60%).
- Margin is for an \$8 million bond.
- Park Board will recommend to City Council (at the June study session) that the bond be included in the 2006 election to draw largest demographic segment for best success.

J. RTC Roster

Sharon Sato will send hard copies of the RTC roster to all Commissioners. Commissioner Barnfather's email address will be confirmed for accuracy prior to sending.

K. RTC Elections of Chair and Vice Chair

Postponed to May meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.

THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, May 25, 2005
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.